

Bloudy new-yeares gift,

OR

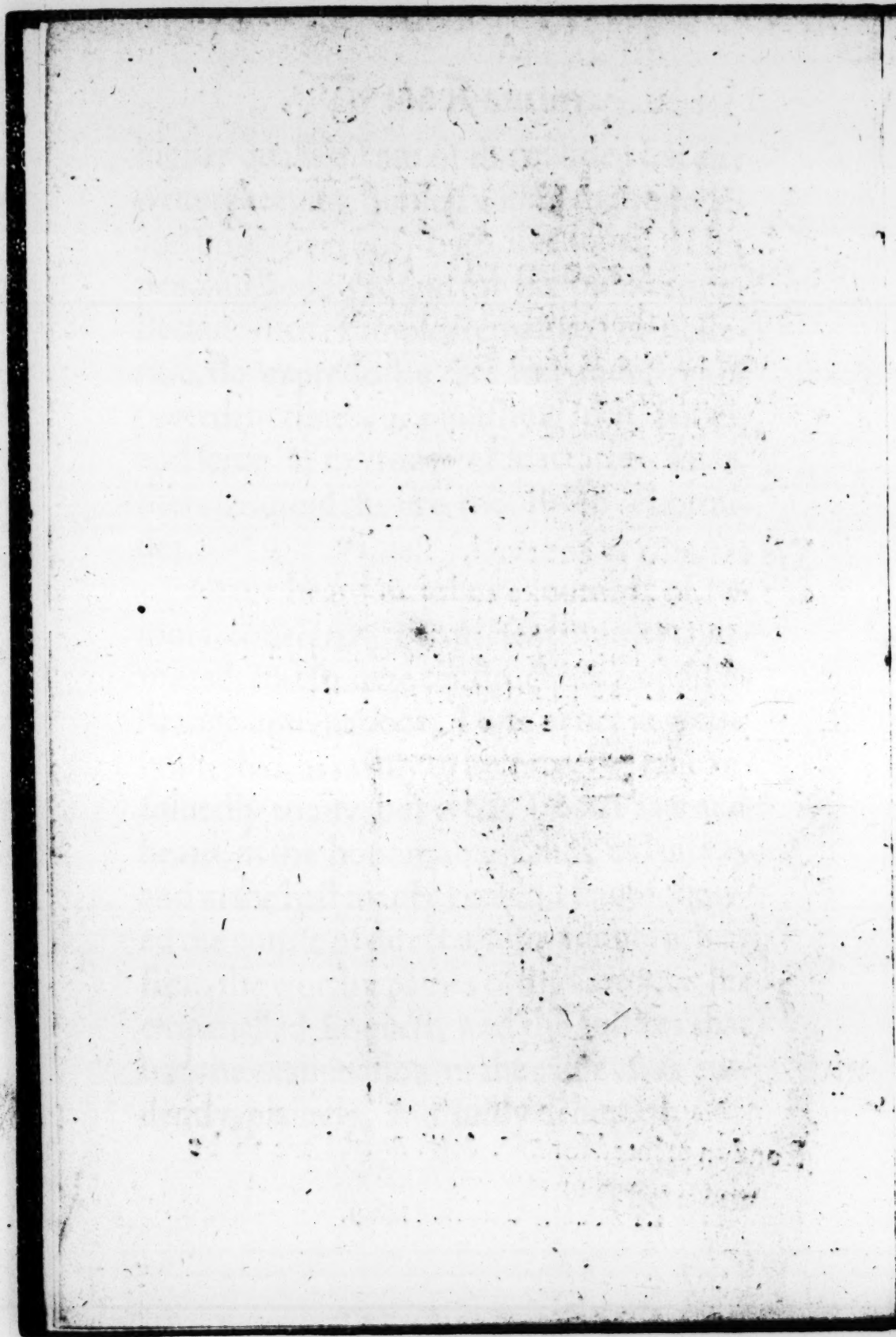
A TRVE DECLARATION of the most cruell and bloudy murther, of maister Robert Heath, in his owne house at high Holbourne, being the *signe of the fire-brand: which murther, was committed by Rowland Cramphorne, seruant and Tapster to the said Heath: On new-yeares day last past in the morning, 1609.*

Whereunto is annexed, sundry exploits of *Tendance*, otherwise called *Double diligence*, seruant vnto Derricke the Hangman, Who with his Confort (Olde dublets) was executed at Tyborne, in Ianuary last past

1609...



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To the Reader.

IN the relation (gentle reader) of the ensuing discourse, I haue bin so dilligent and carefull, that I haue rather failed to write so much as I might, then any way I come short of truth and sinceritie. I heard the offenders tryall and conuiction, at the Sessions house, and according to the enstructions, there deliue- red in euidence, haue briefly set downe the whole summe in effect, though not so or- derly (perhaps) as a better iudgement could haue done. I stand free (I trust from partia- litie, or sinister construction) being no way waged for the one, or fearefully doubting of the other. And in the opening of such cri- minal cases, concerning persons of no
A 3 higher

To the Reader.

higher qualitie. I am of the minde, that any writer (keeping himself within the boundes and limits of truth) hath freedome of his pen, and good ground for his publication; Because such examples remaining to posteritie, do expresse the care and industry of precedent times, in punishing such sinnes, and serue as mirrours or spectacles, for others to auoid the like monstrous enormities.

I haue heard an infinite number of rumors, concerning this present murder committed, and strange constructions, vppon as strange obseruations. I was neuer so giddily affected, as rashly to belecue, or leane resolvedly to any, but what I both saw and heard, in the honourable Court of Iustice, and in the best maner I could, I haue followed the course of direct information, such as from the worthy paines of the Coroner, his empanelled Enquest, and the Iustices that had the examination of the cause, was evidently, plainely, and iustly deliuered.

Therefore

To the Reader.

Therefore, with that olde grammaticall rule, *Felix quem faciunt aliena pericula cautum,*

I knit vp this short preface, desiring that the punishment of this mans offence may so serue in example, as the like bloudy sinne, either in, or neere this famous Citie, may neuer heerafter (by any one) be committed.

FINIS.





A true declaration;
Of the Araignment, Conuiction,
and Execution, of Rowland Cramphorne
a Tapster, for most cruell and bloody mur-
thering his Ma. *Robert Heath* a Cooke,
in his owne house at high Holborne
on New yeares day last in the
morning. 1609.

THe tragicall discourse we
haue in hand to relate, doth first
very necessarily require, that we
should speake somewhat concer-
ning the person who was the
Actor, of so dismall a stratageme;
concerning his former life and
noted behaviour, likely to suite
with so wretched a conclusion: As (no doubt) there
are many of this profession, who are of honest inclina-
tion and good gouernment, though it be a qualitie sub-
iect to much incivility, yet this young man had bin
observed by diuers, to be very idle in disposition,
boole and glibbe headed in affection and behaviour, and
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drinke,

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Drinke, which is the destruction of too many, had more power of him, then was seemly or conuenient.

And hauing by his wanton enticements, overcome the too forward yeelding of a comely young Maiden, with promise of marriage, oathes and other protestations: when such time came, as she was knowne to be great with child, and (both for support of her bused credit, and auoyding such scandale, as thereby might arise to him) had betaken her selfe so out of sight, that no publique detection should lay holde on either: She was at last deliuered, and then challenging him of his former vowed faith and promise, to repayre the ruine of her lost reputation, he bitterly abjured any knowledge of her, or that any such matter had bin done by him, threatening to haue her senerely punished, if she durst afterward lay any such reproche to his charge. She hauing no other helpe but patience, or any freinds to stee her in so wofull an extremitie, was compelled to be silent, and giue ouer any further claime vnto him, Only thus she parted from him, with these or the like speeches. Farewell Rowland, thou and none but thou (vpon my soule) hast bin the overthrow of a poore Maide, I forgive thee from my hart, but am perswaded, that (one day) God will reuenge my cause, and (though I wishe it not, for I loue thee but too well) that I shall live to see thee come to some shamefull end, nay worse then shame, if worse may be. For mine otone parte, this badge of my defamed infamy, which I beare by thee, and this poore childe, y^e fruit of a false and perjurde father: I will beare, the one as I may, and comforte the other as God shall enable me, not doubting but I shall get a penny to buy it soode, when thou shalt perishe in shame and disgrace. I could like wise here set downe other knowne detentions, as of an other woman, who both before, and during

of Rowland Cramphorne.

all the time of his trouble was his only friend and maintainer. Likewise, what all the neighbours there about have noted, in his dayly caringe and behaviour; and what hath bin said concerning his Mistresse; But let all these imputations now dye with him, and proceed we to deliner his notorious offence.

Upon Fryday, being the 17 of February, Rowland Cramphorne was endighted and arraigned at the Sessions house in the olde Baylie, before my Lord Maior, and his Maiesties Commissioners in case of Justice; of willfull murder and pettie treason, for murdering his M. Robert Heath, with an yron syer Foyle, giving him his deathes wound upon his head. He pleaded to his Enditement, not guiltie, and for his further triall, did put himselfe upon God and his Countrie, according to the ordinaries proceeding in the like cases. Whereupon, diuers good and substantiall witnesses were produced, that had before giuen in theirs Euidence to the Coroners Enquest. But in regard they were many, to the number of twelue, or there about: the proofes that were most pregnant, and nearest to the purpose, were only made use of, which was the maide seruant of the house, the boy also of the house, who was bedfellowe to Rowland, a Gentle man lodging in the house, and a Joyner being the next neighbor, who heard the noise in the house, when the bloodie act was performed.

The effect of the maides Euidence, was, that her maister, being one that kept much companie, bin abroad, and came home somewhat disguised in drinke, where sitting downe in his kitchen by the fire after the departure of two or three friends that had come in, and there sitten a while with him; he fell asleepe in his Chaire, his wife going to bed about nine of the clock. And because the keye of her Chamber Doore was missing, and her husband

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husband died often to come late to bed, shee would haue
the maide set the Table against the doore when she came
to bed, that so she might haue knowledge of her husbands
coming. she said she did. none now remained vp in the
house, but the Maide and Rowland, except the Gentle-
man that lay in the house, who hauing bin blodd by
Maister Heath to supper, and sayling thereof by reason
of his hostes late coming in, went vp into his Chamber,
and tise moze with him, where hauing a fyre made
him, and calling for a pot of beere. Rowland brought him
vp a Yugge that held fire penie worth of Beere, where
of the Gentleman drinke but once, and being ouer-
watcht with sitting vp the night before at play: lea-
ning backward to his bed, he fell a sleepe, not waking
again, untill he heard the Chimes goe twelue a clock.
In this time, the other men that were there, had drunke
vp the drinke, and departed while he slept, but at what
time, he knewe not. He awaking, and finding his fire
out, his friends gone, and himselfe to be very colde,
knocked for the Tapster, who coming vp to him, and
resolving him how long he had slept, and of the others
departure: the Gentleman desired to haue some more
fyre, but the Tapster made answer, that there were
no faggots in the house, albeit there was then about
two hundred in the Sellar. He then required to haue a
pot of Beere, but the Tapster replying, that he had lost
the keye, would let him haue none. Then the Gentle-
man saying, that he was both colde and drye, said he
would goe forth and knock vp some bodie, where he
might haue both fyre and drinke: where to the Tapster
was verie willing, making offer to goe with him: but
when he heard the Gentleman say, that in regard it
was so late, he would not stay long, the Tapsters mind
was altered, and would not goe at all. Whereupon,
missing the sheetes vpon his bed, and the Keye also,
which

of Rowland Cramborne.

which being brought up by the maide, and by her and Rowland was laid vpon the bed: the Gentle man, told as he was, and without any drinke, was faine to goe to bed, as him self being there present, deliuered in his Euidence, as hath bin briefly declared.

The Maide, perceiuing her Maister to sit still sleeping, and that it was past two of the clock, locking and bolting the doores both backward and forward with her own hands went vp to bed, setting the Table against the doore, as her Maistris had bidden her: now was Rowland left alone with his Maister, when as it after fell out, the deuill preuailed so farre with him, to doe that horrible deed of darknes. For albeit he went to bed to the boy, whome befoze he had made drunke both with beere & sack: yet the boy felt when he aroise away from him, but could not tel: when he came to bed againe: And the maide befoze her going to bed, had lighted a whole Candle and set by her maister which she found in the morning turned downward into the socket of the Candle stick, not fully a quarter burned.

Now in this dead silence of the earlie morning, betwene two or thre of the clock, the Joyner and his wife being in bed, and a freind of theirs lying in the chamber likewise in the vnder bed, heard a great noise in maister Heathes house, as it were the fall of Stoles or Chaires: in so much as the stranger said vnto them (bearing the Joyners dogs keep such a cople, the one howling, and the other barking:) he wondered how they coulde sleepe, when so great a noise was nere them. The Joyners wife answered, that being Newyears day, surely maister Heathes folkes were vp at worke, about their Byes or such like busines: moreouer, they heard the doore open, which serued to the roomewhere Rowland lay and within a small while after,

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after, they heard it shut againe: for the Chamber where they lay, was iust ouer the said roome, and the doore was neuer opened or shut, but it would much shake their bed. And the Joyner would haue risen to see who went out at that doore, but that his wife perswaded him to the contrarie.

at this time (as by all circumstances appeareth) was this vnnaturall deed doone, and the murderer, hoping to out-face the matter, as he afterward did, goes to bed againe, leauing the doores open euery way, saving that of his owne lodging, which is on the same floore, and but diuided from the Shop: which leauing of the doores thus wide open, must needs be about fire of the clocke, because a maide seruant to a Barber, had bin there after nine a clock for fire, and found them then to be fast shut. Not long after, the maide of the house ariseth, and comming downe into the darke, sees about the dreser boorde, and finds the candle, so put out as befores hath bin declared. And hauing lighted it, sees the woeful spectacle of her maister: whereat being affrighted, she goes and wakes dog-sleeping Rowland, and telles him what he knewe too well, that her maister was murdered: marie god forbid sayes Rowland, it is too true replyes the Maide, Peace. peace sayes Rowland. And being demaunded, wherefoze he sayd so: made answer for feare of affrighting his Distresse.

The outcry of this murder being made, the Joyner being vp and ready, because he frequented the morning lecture at Christs-Church: among other neighbours went into the house, and being the first that layd hand vpon M. Heath, heaued him vp vpon his buttocks, and found him not to be quite dead, for he fetched a sigh or two, and calling for Aqua-vitæ, made meanes to get him vp into his Chamber, but in the carriage vp, his
life

of Rowland Cramphorne.

life expired. The Joyner demanding in the name of God, how such a wicked deed could be done, none being in the house, but they appertaining to the house: Rowland answered, he could not tell, the boxes were found wide open in the morning. The Wife of the house and the Maide, they made the like answer, and no one could presently be said who did it. But the Constable and other Officers being called for, they were carried before such Magistrates, as are to examine matters of like nature.

Rowlands money in his pocket was found to be bloodie, and so was the pocket it selfe: he being then demanded how it so happened: made answer, that it might be with helping to lift his Master, who being much besmired with blood, might bloodie his hands, and so both his money and pocket might become bloodie. But it was approved, and by the Joyner maintayned, that he layd no hand then to help up his Master, how butcherly soever he had smitten him downe before. Beside, upon the Fire Foake there appeared a drop of blood, as seeming that the act was therewith persourmed: albeit he confessed afterwarde, that he did it with a double Juggle.

The day before, M. Heath being with some friends neere unto his house, sent for beere home to his owne Tapster, which was three or foure severall times denied him by the Tapster. And when money was sent, which made him fill the drinke, yet when it was told him it was his masters, and would pay him when hee came home, he caught the pot and put forth the drinke againe, and would send him none. Whereover, it appeared that his M. had some dislike of Rowlands behaviour, and (as the neighbours have affirmed) not without good cause, so that he had tolde him, he should make up his ac-

The Execution.

Account, so; as neere as the feare was, he would be rid of him. And it is said that that day when his maister came home, he gaue him a box or two on the eare, so; denying him Dirke, and bad him provide himselfe, so; he should serue him no longer.

The Jury finding him guilty of willfull murder and treason, did so deliuer by their verdict, and he had sentence of death, according to law. The tuesday following being the 21, day of February; a Gibbet being set vp at Graies-Inne lane end, somewhat neere vnto the house where the murder was committed: In the after noone of the same day, Rowland Cramphorne, being laide vpon a hurdle, was b;rought to the place appointed for execution, where being by good and godly preachers dealt withall, to cleare his own conscience, & deliuer the truth in so doubtfull a case, whether any other had hand or no with him in the action: he would heare no speeches concerning his mist. or the maid, but cleared them: smuch as he could, taking al vpon himself: & loath to heare any further admonishment, which with lone and much charity was laboured vnto him: when he was willed to make no haste, but take time to his owne liking, putting one legge beside the ladder, and they calling him yet to stay, yea the hangman offering to holde him by the chojler of his doublet, he desperately threw himselfe off, not willing to listen to any further good counsell.



A brieſe declaration of *Tendance*
otherwiſe called double Diligence, ſeruant
to *Derrick* the hangman, who with his Conſort
Olde Dubleſs, were lately executed at Ty-
borne, in *Ianuary* laſt 1609.



He royall and Princely lawes and o-
dinances of this Realme being ſo ſtrict
and puniſhable as they are, ſhould (as
euery man would Iudge) moue all men
at the very ſight of the execution therof
to take warning, which way to auoyde
the puniſhments & penalties of them. But as we finde
and ſee dayly, none are ſo apt to tranſgreſſe the Lawe as
men experienced in the Lawe: none more ready for im-
priſonment, then ſuch as haue abode the danger thereof
before: ſo that the olde Proverb is (as it were) ſalfiſied,
namely, The burnt Childe dreade the fire. For as-
much, as many ſeing the dangerous euents which are
like to proceed and happen vpon parties offending, can-
not (throughe the want of grace and ſeruing of God) ef-
chew, but rather incurre the ſame, or worſe if worſe
might be. As for example is to be ſene, by a moſt vngra-
cious, valuckie, falſe and diſſembling villaine, who was
ſeruant to y^e Hang-man, or as ſome call it, his partner,
who was as apt and diligent in the quicke diſpatching of
any

The execution of Tendance.

any his olde p^{er}-fellowes or acquaintance, Cutpur-
ses, which came vnder his iurisdiction, as euer any
hangman (master or seruant) which euer were of the
three cornerd order: Yet note the villanous conuersation
of that shamelesse villaine. There came not (by report)
any young rogue to be admitted into the order or frater-
nitie of rogues (as the custome is among them they
must) but this slave was the cheife ministerer of their
oaths of allegiance, to the vp^{er}right man or whole assem-
bly of rogues, because that he being at their admittance,
should lightlie be at their end making, so that he was as
it were an Ouerseer of their whole liues, both begining,
continuance, and ending: and could testifie at their ends
whether they had done true service, in that their rogish
vocation whereunto they were admitted.

There was not through the whole weeke any pursu-
er, but his malefactions Gentleman, was at the
account making of their booties or praies, and cheife
sharer about all the mai^{er} cutpurses about the towne,
say what they could or do what they could: For if he had
bin neuer so litle cross, in his beastly wo^{er}ships humo^{ur},
by any of the trade, vlesse it were a great chance, either
he should be abridged of the libertie of roguing, or els
through his meanes come to be promoted to his owne
proper power, so he would betw^{ay} and appeach all the
doings of such as liked him not.

No cheating bargain, made either by coseners or
gamsters vpon poore or silly men, neither any locke pickt
or house broke open, but he was made acquainted with
it, els was their oath broken, and so breach thereof, such
offenders lightly in lewe of their breaking of the same,
either promoted to the gallowes, or els betrayed by him,
and through his meanes to the punishment prouiden
so them according to the desert of their offence, or els
cleare

The execution of Tendance.

cleane shut out of the order. The which if any maister cutpurse, had but presumed further then his authoritie, and had prayed or seized vpon the booties of any cutpurse or flauie, who was to doe seruice to those of higher power, if the partie wronged had but made way to Tendance, so2 so he was called, he should be sure to be heard and haue remedie so2 his wrongs : or if any of the inferiour had neglected any part of their duties, the which (by their oath at their stealing or admittance into the order of Rogues) they were tied vnto, They were all Subiect to the sentence which Tendance should pronounce against them, and in daunger of such penalties , as by the generall consent of their whole Fraternitie had befoze time bene established.

No whore or young strumpet could be admitted to be Doxis or Dels, or receiue any dignitie or vocacion without consent of Tendance, nor none be (broken of the vpright man or maister Rogue) as their order is, vntlesse by Tendance his discretiō it might be thought befitting. beggers or idle Roges, or any such, might not be admitted into the lazie roging order, but must first be brought befoze Tendance, to the end he might allow of their proceedings, either old or young. Besides, he had all the whole vniuersall prozogatue in enery perticuler, the ordinances established, so2 the vpholding and supporting of the totall fraternitie of Rogues.

But whether the fault were in the bad termes or in the want which overcrowed mens purties at their coming to the termes through the dearth and hardnes which was imposed vpon men of the Countrie, or any private falshood, were wrought among his inferiours, by detaining of the right which he should haue from him, I know not, But as it is hard with honest men, it seemes it was not beneficiall to him : so2 he was bzged to leaue his

The execution of Tendance

superintitie, and bend to a more inferiour course, for he was driven by compulsion, to walke markets, faires, thonges & crowes, & become accountable to him selfe of his owne gettings as well as of others: for either he became to be a base minded cutpurse for need, or els he did it to pise into the dissimulations of other of his vocation.

But he was cheifly moved to it by an other consort which was a seller of Olde dublets who as his cheife Counsellor, perswaded him to make triall (as it seemed) of the benefit which might growe or arise in places of resort through the cunning devices which might be put in practise: which Olde dublets having obtained at his hands, and procuring him to make him his Corquall in sharing, practised to effect as well as Tendance, and so beayding at his hand. The one to accomplysh the full profit and insight in to the art of Roguing, the other to have the commoditie which might ensue of the benefit which other Rogues should make, which were to practise that occupation.

Which commoditie, Olde dublets found sweet, by reason of the monthlie bargaines which he purchased with his misbegotten stooke: for every offender, which Tendace should think hardlie of, was sure to be trusted, specially such as had any good suits to their backs, which through Tendance his meanes, Olde dublets had the forsaking of, and had thereof very good pennieworths for reasonable moneie.

This resolution encouraged these two proggers to persist in their calling, inso much that of late (besides the other sort) Leaden hall, Cheapside, Newgate-market, nor any other place of meeting, as Westminster-hall or any such places of assembly, was voyde or destitute of the companie of these two, the Captaine and Lieutenant of the

Derricks Man.

the whole band.

So that vpon a time, Tendance making tryall to shew his cunning ouer a purse, which was something dangerous and hard to come by without suspicion, suddenly was taken with the manner: and lawfully being thereof detected, was committed into the hands of such as might command him, as he before had done others. And immediatly after, whether for greife or for greedines of companie, I know not, But Oldedublers through his cunning, purchased leane to become Chamberfellow with Tendance in Newgate, where like good companions, they passed a small time away together, And being called by the reuerend Judges and Maistrats of the land, they could scarcely answer their Faults with honestie, wherefore they were abridged meretoziously, to endure that which their deserts desired: and in fine, having the sentence of condemnation pronounced against them, they both lowingly ended in a hempen friendship.

Hereby may be seene the profits and fruites which may be gathered through the salienes, and vndoing of others: the obiousnes of such which through hope of benefit willioyne with others in practising of anothers hurt, and the fall which manie a one hath for want of grace, though they haue neuer so manie, nor so good examples given them. Wherefore I pray God of his mercie, to amend in euery one, that which is amisse, & giue all men grace to eschew the way which wil bring a man to his end before his time.

